

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Tony Wood	Hank Guess	
Charlotte C. Williams	Aldermen	David P. Zagaroli
Danny Seaver		Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Deputy City Clerk Crystal B. Mundy and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Guess called the meeting to order. All Council members were present except for Alderman Williams.
- II. Invocation by Reverend Cliff Moone, Retired United Church of Christ Minister
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations

- A. Proclamation for Family Support Awareness Month – Presented to Libby Throckmorton, Catawba County Partnership for Children; Cindy Boger, Lead Parent Educator with the Parents as Teachers Program; Tim Sims, Federal Programs Director with Hickory Public Schools (and Supervisor of the Parents as Teachers Program); Members of the Parents as Teachers team, Kristen Blackwell, Sarah Wilson, and Shelley Woody.

Mayor Guess asked Libby Throckmorton, Catawba County Partnership for Children; Cindy Boger, Lead Parent Educator with the Parents as Teachers Program; Tim Sims, Federal Programs Director with Hickory Public Schools (and Supervisor of the Parents as Teachers Program); Members of the Parents as Teachers team, Kristen Blackwell, Sarah Wilson, and Shelley Woody and others in attendance to the podium for the Family Support Awareness Month Proclamation. He read and presented the Proclamation to those in attendance. He thanked them for all that they do and what they had done to help the families in the unifour areas.

Ms. Libby Throckmorton, Catawba County Partnership for Children thanked Mayor Guess and City Council for the support that the City provided for them. They enjoy working with the City on all sorts of projects that benefit the children and families of Catawba County.

- V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

- A. Mr. Edward Thomas, 3115 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lane NE, Hickory, in the St. Stephen's area addressed Council. He advised the last meeting he was at was a Planning meeting and he had indicated that some of the procedures that were taken did not seem to coincide with what was in the Land Use Plan. Since that time, he had found something that was on Hickory's site that referred to zoning information and the process for that was the thing that he thought was being used. The two methods, one in the Land Use Plan and one on the rezoning information were completely different. He asked if this had been formalized as part of the code even though the code was relatively new.

Mayor Guess informed Mr. Thomas he was allowed to address Council, but they were not prepared, at this time, to answer any questions, but they would have someone from the City's staff get back in contact with him to answer his questions and sit down and speak with him if he would so desire to do that. He asked if anyone else wished to address City Council. No one appeared.

- VI. Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting of February 1, 2022.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams that the Minutes of February 1, 2022 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

- VII. Reaffirmation and Ratification of Second Readings. Votes recorded on first reading will be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading unless Council Members change their votes and so indicate on second reading.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Budget Revision Number 12. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
  - B. Budget Revision Number 13. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
  - C. Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Chapter 21, Sections 21-8, 21-9, and 21-11 of the Hickory Code of Ordinances. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

- VIII. Consent Agenda: All items below will be enacted by vote of City Council. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered under Item IX.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approved Applying for the 2022 Urgent Repair Program (URP22) through the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA).

Staff requests approval to apply for 2022 Urgent Repair Program (URP22) through the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA). The Urgent Repair Program provides funding in the form of a forgivable loan to low and extremely low-income homeowners with special needs at a maximum of \$12,000 per dwelling unit. The City has applied for these funds numerous times in recent years. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year ten homeowners received home repairs through the program. Staff plans to apply for \$75,000 of funding through the program. This funding will assist at least eight eligible homeowners with repairs. The City of Hickory will provide \$5,000 in matching funds. This is available from program income that was received through the former Rental Rehabilitation Program. The Urgent Repair Program funds will be used to supplement the City's Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, which generally works on larger projects with families that have slightly higher income. Staff will prepare an application that incorporates program requirements, applicant eligibility standards, and program capabilities. Upon approval by City Council, the application will be submitted with the required \$75 application fee to the NCHFA. Staff recommends City Council's approval to apply for the 2022 Urgent Repair Program through the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency.

- B. Approved a Community Appearance Grant for Non-Residential Property Owned by Century Leasing, LLC located at 401 11<sup>th</sup> Street NW in the Amount of \$7,500.

The Community Appearance Commission recommends City Council approval of a Community Appearance Grant for non-residential property owned by Century Leasing, LLC located at 401 11<sup>th</sup> Street NW in the amount of \$7,500. City Council created the Community Appearance Grant program to provide economic incentives for property owners to improve the general appearance of properties located within the City's designated Urban Revitalization Area. The Community Appearance Commission reviews applications for the grant program and forwards a recommendation of approval or denial to City Council. The grants are designed as a reimbursement grant in which the City of Hickory will match the applicant on a 50/50 basis. The maximum grant amount from the City of Hickory is \$7,500. The grant proposal involves the painting of the building's exterior. The property is located within the City's defined Urban Revitalization Area, and as such is eligible for the consideration of a Community Appearance Grant. The applicant provided two estimates, the low estimate for the work totals \$19,466. The subject property's current tax value is assessed at \$1,727,800. The requested grant amounts to 0.43 percent of the property's tax value. The application was reviewed by the Community Appearance Commission and scored 30 points out of a possible 36 points, which placed the application into the high category of scoring. Given the score, The Commission unanimously recommends funding of the grant application in the amount of \$7,500.

- C. Called for a Public Hearing for Consideration of a Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation of 47.40 Acres of Property Located on Section House Road between 34<sup>th</sup> Street Place NE and Sipe Road, PIN 3723-08-89-6240. (Authorized Public Hearing for March 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building.)

RESOLUTION NO. 22-09  
RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED  
UNDER G.S. 160A-31 AND/OR 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition from Earl Errand Propst Heirs requesting annexation of an area described in a petition was received on February 1, 2022 by the City Council of the City of Hickory; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-31 and G.S. 160A-58.1 provide that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY:

THAT, the Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above-described petition and to certify as soon as possible to the City Council the result of her investigation.

CERTIFICATE OF SUFFICIENCY

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA:

I, Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk, do hereby certify that I have investigated the petition attached hereto and have found as a fact that said petition is signed by all owners of real property lying in the area described therein, in accordance with G.S. 160A-31 and/or G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended:

Located on Section House Road, between 34<sup>th</sup> Street Place NE and Sipe Road, Containing Approximately 47.40 acres more or less, PIN 3723-08-89-6240

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Hickory this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2022.

/s/ Debbie D. Miller, City Clerk

RESOLUTION 22-10

RESOLUTION FIXING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION OF ANNEXATION, PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-31 OR G.S. 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of the area described herein has been received; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory has, by Resolution, directed the clerk to investigate the sufficiency thereof; and

WHEREAS, certification by the Clerk as to the sufficiency of said petition has been made.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY:

Section 1: That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 1, 2022, in the Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina.

Section 2: The area proposed for annexation is described as follows:  
  
Located on Section House Road, between 34<sup>th</sup> Street Place NE and Sipe Road, Containing Approximately 47.40 acres more or less, PIN 3723-08-89-6240

Section 3: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in The Hickory Daily Record, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hickory, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-11

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE INTENT TO ANNEX INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY EARL ERRAND PROPST HEIRS AND CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SAME

WHEREAS, Earl Errand Propst Heirs are the owners of certain real property as described herein, which property is located on Section House Road between 34<sup>th</sup> Street Place NE and Sipe Road, containing approximately 47.40 acres and identified as PIN 3723-08-89-6240.

WHEREAS, such property is currently located in the City's extra-territorial jurisdictional (ETJ); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of the City of Hickory to annex such property into the corporate limits of the City of Hickory as authorized by N.C.G.S. Section 160A-31; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Hickory City Council, sitting in open session this 15th day of February 2022, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the

governing body of said Council, duly called and posted in accordance with the statutes of the State of North Carolina, as follows:

- Section 1: That the Hickory City Council does determine that it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of the City of Hickory to annex the property described hereinafter into the corporate limits of the City of Hickory.
- Section 2: That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 1, 2022, in the Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina.
- Section 3: The same being that property reflected on maps entitled Earl Propst Heirs, Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 1, Current City Boundary, subject property outlined in red; Earl Propst Heirs, Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 2, Current Zoning, subject property outlined in red; and Earl Propst Heirs, Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation Map 3, Aerial Photography, subject property outlined in red
- Section 4: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in The Hickory Daily Record, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hickory, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

D. Approved a Three-Year Auditing Contract with Martin Starnes & Associates.

Staff requests approval to accept a three-year contract for auditing services with Martin Starnes & Associates. Martin Starnes & Associates was established in 1987 and has continued to grow with offices in Hickory and Taylorsville. Their Hickory office offers a convenient location for City of Hickory staff to work with MSA accounting personnel. Martin Starnes & Associates sponsors a variety of North Carolina Government Finance Officer events throughout the state and has become a leader in their work with local governments. The City of Hickory has utilized the services of Martin Starnes & Associates for the past ten years with excellent results. Martin Starnes & Associates was also contracted to produce the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The North Carolina Local Government Commission (LGC) does not enforce formal bid requirements for auditing services due to the professional relationship formed between auditors and clients over an extended work history. The Secretary of the Local Government Commission approves all local government contracts for audit or audit-related work. Martin Starnes & Associates offers a competitive rate for their services and is widely known for their professional staff and service throughout the local government community. The proposed fees for the City for fiscal years ending June 30, 2022 – 2024 are as follows: 2022 - \$64,200; 2023 - \$67,410; 2024 - \$70,780; plus, single audit fees of \$3,500 per major program in excess of three. Staff recommends approval to accept a three-year contract for auditing services with Martin Starnes & Associates.

E. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 14.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-06  
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 14

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory that, pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 159.15 and 159.13.2, the following revision be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and for the duration of the Project Ordinances noted herein.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund within the FY 2021-22 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Government	494	-
Culture & Recreation	80	-
Public Safety	498,815	-
TOTAL	499,389	-

To provide funding for the above, the General Fund revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	494	-
Sales and Services	80	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,256	-
Restricted Intergovernmental	497,559	-
TOTAL	499,389	-

SECTION 2. To amend the Fleet Fund within the FY 2020-21 Budget Ordinance the expenditures shall be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	494	-
TOTAL	494	-

To provide funding for the above, the Fleet Fund revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenue	494	-
TOTAL	494	-

SECTION 3. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

- IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None
- X. Informational Item
- XI. New Business:

A. Public Hearings

1. Approved a Voluntary Non-Contiguous Annexation of 13.384 Acres of Property Located Between 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue Place NE and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lane NE, PIN 3735-13-02-2954. - Presentation by Planning Director Brian Frazier.

Consideration of the voluntary non-contiguous annexation of 13.384 acres of property located on Sulphur Springs Road between 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue Place NE and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lane NE, identified as PIN 3735-13-02-2954. D&J Properties North Carolina, LLC has petitioned for the voluntary non-contiguous annexation of 13.348 acres of property located of property located on Sulphur Springs Road between 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue Place NE and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lane NE. The subject property is currently located within Catawba County’s jurisdiction and zoned R-20 Residential. The annexation is being requested to gain access to City services. The subject property is currently zoned R-20 Residential by Catawba County and is 13.384 acres in total size. The current county R-20 zoning district permits residential uses at a density of two dwelling units per acre. The subject property is currently vacant; however, the intention is to develop the property for the construction of forty-two single-family attached dwellings (townhomes). This amounts to approximately three dwelling units per acre. The current tax value of the property is \$93,700. If annexed with its present value, the property would generate additional tax revenues of \$587. The owners have indicated the selling price for the forty-two units would be between \$300,000 and \$325,000. Staff finds the petition to be in conformity with applicable statutes and recommends approval of the petition.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on February 4, 2022.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller addressed Mr. Thomas advising him that Planning Director Brian Frazier could speak to him after the meeting, but Mr. Frazier had three public hearings. He mentioned if he wanted, he could wait until Mr. Frazier was finished, and he would ask him to speak with him, otherwise Mr. Thomas could write his name and number down and they could have Mr. Frazier call him back tomorrow.

Mr. Ed Thomas advised he would wait.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller introduced the first public hearing, consideration of the voluntary annexation of 13.384 acres of property located on Sulphur Springs Road. He asked Mr. Brian Frazier, Planning Director, to the podium to present that item.

Planning Director Brian Frazier presented a PowerPoint. He discussed the voluntary annexation of D&J Properties North Carolina LLC. The applicant was Mr. Duke McLauchlin. This was a voluntary non-contiguous annexation off of Sulphur Springs Road in northeast Hickory. It was just under 13.5 acres in size. The closest Ward would be Ward Two, Councilwoman Williams. The property was currently pretty much vacant with nearby residential. The future development for such was residential in nature. There would be 42 single family attached townhomes on the property. The annexation was being requested for

the developer to connect to public utilities. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a map pointing out the location of the parcel in question outlined in red. He pointed out the area which was Hickory's ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction), the current City limits, the area located in Catawba County zoning. The property bordered Sulphur Springs Road. The next map showed the voluntary non-contiguous annexation boundaries of the City. He pointed out the subject property outlined red, the area in the City, the area in the ETJ, and the area located in Catawba County. He displayed a map showing the City's current zoning and pointed out the subject property, the area located in zoning district R-40, which was Catawba County, and R-20, which was also County. The parcel in question was currently within the Catawba County zoning district R-20. To the east he pointed out City zoning medium density residential R-2 and just to the north of the property in question was also City of Hickory, medium density residential R-2. That was the Carolina Springs Subdivision. He displayed an aerial ortho map of the site. He pointed out Sulphur Springs Road ran along the southeastern border of the property in question. The voluntary annexation petition complied with all applicable State annexation statutes. Adequate public services were available in sufficient quantities. Staff believed the annexation of the property would not cause available public services to fall below acceptable levels. Based upon these findings City staff recommended approval of the requested annexation. He asked Council for any questions.

Mayor Guess asked if Council had any questions for Mr. Frazier. He explained the rules for conducting the public hearing. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal.

Mr. Duke McLauchlin, 2008 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive in Hickory advised he was the developer on this project. He wanted to let everybody know that he was present to answer any questions they may have. He knew there were concerns of some neighbors. He had gone door to door and met with several of the neighbors and seemed to answer most questions they had. They all have his email and phone number and any issues going forward he had encouraged them to reach out to him. Everybody seemed to be okay with everything that was going on so far.

Mayor Guess thanked Mr. McLauchlin. He asked if there was anyone else present who would like to speak in favor of this annexation. He declared the public hearing closed and ask if there was a motion or any further discussion from Council.

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the rezoning petition 21-07. The motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney John Crone advised that public hearing was for the annexation.

Mayor Guess thought that Alderman Seaver had said rezoning.

City Attorney John Crone requested Council correct the motion for the record.

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the Voluntary Annexation. The motion carried unanimously.

#### ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NO. 470

##### VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION ORDINANCE (NON-CONTIGUOUS) D&J Properties North Carolina, LLC

##### AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, PURSUANT TO GENERAL STATUTES 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED (NON-CONTIGUOUS)

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory desires to annex the area described herein, under G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has by resolution directed the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of said annexation; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk has certified to the sufficiency of said request, and a public hearing on the question of this annexation was held in the Council Chamber of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina, at 7:00 p.m. on the 15th day of February 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory further finds that the area described therein meets the standards of G.S. 160A-58.1(b), to wit:

- a. The nearest point on the proposed satellite corporate limits is not more than three miles from the corporate limits of the City of Hickory.
- b. No point on the proposed satellite corporate limits is closer to another city than to the City of Hickory.
- c. The areas described are so situated that the City will be able to provide services on the same basis within the proposed satellite corporate limits that it provides within the primary corporate limits.
- d. No subdivision, as defined in G.S. 160A-376, will be fragmented by this proposed annexation.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory does hereby find as a fact that said petition has been signed by all the owners of real property in the area who are required by law to sign and all other requirements of G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended have been complied with; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that the annexation is otherwise valid, and that the public health, safety, and welfare of the City of Hickory and of the areas proposed for annexation will be best served by annexing the area herein described.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA:

Section 1. By virtue of the authority granted by G.S. 160A-58.2, as amended, the following-described non-contiguous territory is hereby annexed and made a part of the City of Hickory as of the 28th day of February 2022:

SATELLITE ANNEXATION  
BY THE CITY OF HICKORY  
OF THE PROPERTY OF  
D&J PROPERTIES NORTH CAROLINA, LLC

Being a 13.384-acre tract in Clines Township, Catawba County, NC, and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning on an existing 1/2" rod, said rod having NC Grid Coordinates of N.752219.515 and E.1330491.749, said rod being located N27°13'18"E 64.14' from NCGS Monument "Queen AZ.MK" having NC Grid Coordinates of N.752162.480 and E.1330462.410, said rod being the northeastern corner of Rebecca M. Vechik (1488/981); thence with the line of Vechik, N34°24'54"W 51.57' to an existing 1" rod; thence N32°52'09"W 651.18' to an existing stone corner, said stone corner being a common corner of William Luther Watts Heirs (1498/220 and 1876/1056); thence N85°06'48"W 583.67' to an existing 3/4" angle iron, said angle iron being a common corner of Timothy Lee Boliek (1341/411) and Robert R. Fisher, et al. (3199/720); thence with the line of Fisher, N03°32'28"E 460.46' to an existing 5/8" rebar, said rebar being a common corner of RTT Properties, LLC (3587/674); thence S82°48'50"E 685.69' to an existing stone corner, said stone corner being a common corner of Gene E. Krumanocker (3565/1206) and Rosalind Loritts (2805/830); thence S36°19'03"E 520.86' to an existing 1/2" rebar, said rebar being a common corner of Scottie Joines (3417/853) and John C. McCartney (2103/945); thence with the line of McCartney, S36°23'13"E passing an existing 1/2" rebar at a distance of 319.57', a total distance of 371.72' to a point in the centerline of Sulphur Springs Road NE (SR 1529), said point being located S41°12'46"W 3,186.63' from NCGS Monument "Queen" having NC Grid Coordinates of N.751910.790 and E.1332864.930; thence with the centerline of Sulphur Springs Road NE (SR 1529) the following five (5) calls and distances: (1) S40°38'16"W 113.70' to a point, (2) S40°43'02"W 95.44' to a point, (3) S39°48'33"W 74.89' to a point, (4) S36°05'07"W 68.63' to a point, and (5) S31°02'20"W 58.37' to a point in the centerline of Sulphur Springs Road NE (SR 1529); thence N34°24'54"W 33.40' to an existing 1/2" rod, the point and place of Beginning, containing 13.384 acres by coordinate computation as certified by Carl D. Bunton, PLS-3032 on a survey plat entitled: Satellite Annexation Plat for: "D & J Properties North Carolina, LLC" dated 05/24/2021, revised 10/28/2021.

Section 2. Upon and after the 31st day of December 2021, the above-described territory and its citizens and property shall be subject to all debts, laws, ordinances, and regulations in force in the City of Hickory and shall be entitled to

the same privileges and benefits as other parts of the City of Hickory. Said territory shall be subject to municipal taxes according to G.S. 160A-58.10, as amended.

Section 3. The newly annexed territory described herein shall become part of Ward No. 2 of the City of Hickory.

Section 4. The Mayor of the City of Hickory shall cause to be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Catawba County, and in the Office of the Secretary of State at Raleigh, North Carolina, an accurate map of the annexed territory, described in Section 1 hereof, together with duly certified copy of this Ordinance. Such a map shall also be delivered to the County Board of Elections, as required by G.S. 163-288.1.

ADOPTED THIS 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2022.

2. Approved on First Reading Consideration of Rezoning Petition Number 21-07 for 13.384 Acres of Property Located on Sulphur Springs Road between 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue Place NE and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lane NE from Catawba County R-20 to Planned Development (PD). – Presentation by Planning Director Brian Frazier.

D&J Properties NC, LLC has submitted a petition requesting the consideration of rezoning property located on Sulphur Springs Road between 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue Place NE and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lane NE from Catawba County R-20 to Planned Development (PD). The 13.384-acre property is zoned R-20 Residential by Catawba County and is in the process of being annexed. The R-20 zoning district permits residential uses at a density of two dwelling units per acre. The property is vacant; however, the owners intend to construct forty-two single-family attached dwellings (townhomes). This amounts to approximately three dwelling units per acre. The Hickory Regional Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on December 1, 2021, to consider the petition. During the public hearing, the property owner and the project engineer gave an overview of the proposal. During the hearing one nearby residential spoke but was not in opposition of the petition. The neighboring residents spoke in opposition of the petition citing property values and drainage. Upon hearing from the petitioner and surrounding residents, the Planning Commission kept the public hearing open and continued consideration until January 26, 2022. On January 26, 2022, the Planning Commission resumed the public hearing. Upon closing the public hearing, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission acknowledged the petition's consistency with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Based upon these findings, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend approval of the petition. Staff concurs with the recommendation of the Hickory Regional Planning Commission.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on February 4 and February 11, 2022.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller advised the second item would be a rezoning petition for 13.384 acres of property. He asked Planning Director Brian Frazier to the podium.

Planning Director Brian Frazier presented a PowerPoint. He advised this was rezoning petition 21-07 connected with the annexation just approved. He advised they had talked about the property owner and Mr. McLauchlin had spoken. The zoning was R-20 County, containing approximately 13.5 acres in size. The property was currently zoned R 20, right before the action Council would be taking this evening. He noted the zoning request was intended to provide an area for future residential development. The property owner had requested to rezone the property to Planned Development PD to facilitate the construction of 42 single family attached townhome units. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out the location of the property noting the whole area for the Future Land Use Plan was basically shown by Hickory by Choice as low density residential. He showed the existing zoning pointing out R-40, R-20, the City R-2, and some other areas which were R-2 to the southwest. The property in question was looking for a rezoning to medium density R-2, which was compatible to the areas both contiguous and in close proximity. He displayed the aerial ortho map and pointed out the lake to the north, Sulphur Springs Road to the southeast of the property. He referred to the PowerPoint and showed the property layout in question ending in a cul-de-sac. For the rezoning petition again, the property was currently vacant. The general area was classified as low density residential by Hickory by Choice. The plan stated the following about low density residential, "This land use categories intended to provide an area of transition between higher density housing and the surrounding rural areas". The PD district was not listed as the implementing zoning district for the low-density



residential classification as each planned development was considered on a case-by-case basis, both by the City's Planning Commission and City Council. The low-density residential called for 2-4 units per acre by Hickory by Choice. The proposed project would result in a density of roughly three units per acre as currently proposed. Given these factors of the rezoning of the property to PD was consistent with findings and recommendations of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Plan. He discussed findings and recommendation. On January 26<sup>th</sup> the Planning Commission resumed the public hearing that was opened on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and continued to date specific, January 26<sup>th</sup>, upon closing the public hearing after an amount of debate, the Planning Commission acknowledged the petitions consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and based on those findings the Planning Commission voted unanimously, 7-0, that evening to recommend approval of the petition and planning staff concurred with the recommendation of the Commission. He asked for any questions regarding the rezoning.

Mayor Guess asked if Council had any questions for Mr. Frazier. He explained the same rules applied as he had discussed before. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess closed the public hearing.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams approval of rezoning petition number 21-07. The motion carried unanimously.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 22-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE OFFICIAL HICKORY ZONING ATLAS TO REZONE +/- 13.384 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON SULPHUR SPRINGS ROAD BETWEEN 47TH AVENUE PLACE NE AND 48TH AVENUE LANE NE FROM CATAWBA COUNTY R-20 RESIDENTIAL TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PD).

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 2.2 of the Hickory Land Development Code provides for amendments to the Official Zoning Atlas; and

WHEREAS, the City has been petitioned to rezone +/- 13.384 acres of property located on Sulphur Springs Road NE between 47th Avenue Place NE and 48th Avenue Lane NE, more particularly described on Exhibit A attached hereto, to allow a Planned Development (PD) district; and

WHEREAS, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission considered the proposed rezoning during a public hearing on January 26, 2022, and forwarded a recommendation of approval to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Article 2 of the Hickory Land Development Code requires findings the proposed rezoning is in response to changing conditions and is reasonably necessary to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has found Petition 21-07 to be in conformance with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, THAT THE REZONING OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON SUPPHUR SPRINGS ROAD NE BETWEEN 47TH AVENUE PLACE NE AND 48TH AVENUE LANE NE, DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A IS APPROVED.

#### SECTION 1. Findings of fact.

1. The subject property is located between 47th Avenue Plan NE and 48th Avenue Lane NE and identified as PIN 3735-13-02-2954.
2. The rezoning request is intended to further implement the findings and recommendations of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.
3. The rezoning of the property is inconsistent with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan, but reasonable as the action protects the public's interest and safety.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or provisions of the Hickory City Code which are not in conformance with the provisions of the Amendment occurring herein are repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

### SECTION 3. Statement of Consistency and Reasonableness

Upon considering the matter, the Hickory City Council found:

1. Consistency of the proposed zoning with the Hickory Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan (Hickory by Choice 2030) and the stated Purpose and Intent of this Land Development Code;

The general area is classified Low Density Residential by the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan. (Note: The Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use map does not contain parcel line data, as the general boundaries of the land use categories are not concrete.)

The Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan states the following about Low Density Residential areas: "this land use category is intended to provide an area of transition between higher density housing in Hickory and the surrounding rural areas..." (HBC 2030, Pg. 3.9).

The PD zoning district is not listed as the implementing zoning district for the Low-Density Residential classification, as each PD is considered on a case-by-case basis. However, Low Density Zoning calls for 2-4 units per acre (HBC 2030, Pg. 3.9). The proposed project would result in a density of roughly 3 units per acre.

Given these factors, the rezoning of the properties to PD is consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Hickory by Choice (2030) comprehensive Plan.

2. The Low-Density Residential classification is intended to provide locations for residential development at an intensity of 2 to 4 units per acre.
3. The Planned Development (PD) zoning district's proposed density adheres to the recommendations for areas classified as Low-Density Residential by the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.
4. Any and all improvements that are to take place on the property will be required to follow all applicable development regulations.
5. Sufficient public infrastructure is currently in place to handle the type of development possible on the subject property.
6. Any future development that takes place on the subject property will be regulated by current and future development standards duly adopted by the City of Hickory and the State of North Carolina; and
7. Any future development occurring on the subject property will be required to adhere to all state and local building, fire, and flood zone related development regulations. Such regulations will ensure proper protections are provided to ensure surrounding residents, and property owners are properly protected as prescribed by law.

Based upon these findings, the Hickory City Council has found Rezoning Petition 21-07 to be reasonable, but inconsistent with the findings and recommendations of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

### SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

3. Approved on First Reading Consideration of Rezoning Petition Number 22-01 for 55.49 Acres of Property Located on Spencer Road between 30<sup>th</sup> Street Court NE and 31<sup>st</sup> Street Court NE from Hickory R-1 Catawba County R-20 to Hickory R-2 Residential. – Presentation by Planning Director Brian Frazier.

Margaret H. Glaze, Josephine Bonniwell Hambrick Revocable Trust & Robert T. Hambrick, III Trust have submitted a petition requesting the consideration of rezoning property located on Spencer Road between 30<sup>th</sup> Street Court NE and 31<sup>st</sup> Street Court NE from Hickory R-1 Catawba County R-20 to Hickory R-2 Residential. The 55.49-acre property is zoned R-1 Residential by Hickory and R-20 Residential by Catawba County and was recently annexed. Both zoning districts permit residential uses at a density of two dwelling units per acre. The subject property is currently vacant; however, the owners' intention is to develop the property for the construction of detached single-family residences. While preliminary development plans have not been provided, the theoretical maximum

development yield under R-2 zoning could result in +/-200 residential homes. The Hickory Regional Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on January 26, 2022, to consider the petition. During the public hearing, the design engineer provided the Commission with a brief overview of the owners' future intentions. No other spoke in support of or in opposition of the petition. Upon closing the public hearing, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission acknowledged the petition's consistency with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Based upon its findings, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend approval of the petition. Staff concurs with the recommendation of the Hickory Regional Planning Commission.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on February 4 and February 11, 2022.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller advised the third and final public hearing was consideration of rezoning petition 22-01 for 55 and a half acres of property located on Spencer Road. He asked Planning Director Brian Frazier to the podium to give the report.

Planning Director Brian Frazier presented a PowerPoint. He advised the property owners were Margaret H. Glaze, Josephine Hambrick Trust and Robert Hambrick Trust. The applicant in this case was the City of Hickory, only because Council at a previous meeting recently had already annexed the property in question. The current zoning was R-1 Hickory and R-20 Catawba County. The property size was about 55 and a half acres. Prior to the annexation current rezoning request was intended to provide an area for future residential development. At the request of the property owners the City of Hickory, because of the prior annexation, was requesting to rezone the property to R-2 residential to facilitate the construction of a future residential subdivision on the property. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a map. He pointed out the property in question outlined in red. He pointed out Hickory City limits, the ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction), and the area located in Catawba County. He noted for the Future Land Use Plan, property designated as industrial, some high density residential, and medium density residential, but mostly it was low density in this area and that was what this proposed project would hope to be. The zoning was R-20 County, R-1 City of Hickory and then there was R-2. He pointed out the property was pretty much split between the City of Hickory as well as the R-20 County current zoning. He displayed the aerial ortho map and pointed out Spencer Road, Section House, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, and McDonald Parkway for some perspective. The property was zoned both R-1 and R-20 and was currently vacant. The general area was classified as low density residential by Hickory by Choice. The plan talks again about low density residential areas, about being an area of transition between higher density housing and the surrounding lower density rural area. The R-2 zoning district was not listed as the implementing zoning district for the low-density classification. However, the low density residential called for 2 to 4 units per acre. Given these factors, the rezoning of the property, the City R-2 they believed was consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission closed the public hearing, acknowledged the petitions consistency with Hickory by Choice and recommended unanimously 7 to 0 to recommend approval of the zoning petition. Staff concurred with the recommendation of the City's Planning Commission. He asked for any questions.

Mayor Guess asked Council if they had any questions for Mr. Frazier. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess closed the public hearing.

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Williams approval of rezoning petition number 22-01. The motion carried unanimously.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 22-08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE OFFICIAL HICKORY ZONING ATLAS TO REZONE +/- 55.49 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON SPENCER ROAD BETWEEN 30TH STREET COURT NE AND 31ST STREET COURT NE FROM CITY OF HICKORY R-1 RESIDENTIAL AND CATAWBA COUNTY R-20 RESIDENTIAL TO CITY OF HICKORY R-2 RESIDENTIAL.

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 2.2 of the Hickory Land Development Code provides for amendments to the Official Zoning Atlas; and

WHEREAS, the City has been petitioned to rezone +/- 55.49 acres of property located on Spencer Road between 30th Street Court NE and 31st Street Court NE, more particularly described on Exhibit A attached hereto, to allow a R-2 Residential; and

WHEREAS, the Hickory Regional Planning Commission considered the proposed rezoning during a public hearing on January 26, 2022, and forwarded a recommendation of approval to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Article 2 of the Hickory Land Development Code requires findings the proposed rezoning is in response to changing conditions and is reasonably necessary to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has found Petition 22-01 to be in conformance with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, THAT THE REZONING OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON SULPHUR SPRINGS RAD NE BETWEEN 47TH AVENUE PLACE NE AND 48TH AVENUE LANE NE, DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A IS APPROVED.

#### SECTION 1. Findings of fact.

1. The subject property is located on Spencer Road between 30th Street Court NC and 31st Street Court NE and identified as PIN 3723-15-63-5314.
2. The rezoning request is intended to further implement the findings and recommendations of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.
3. The rezoning of the property is inconsistent with the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan, but reasonable as the action protects the public's interest and safety.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or provisions of the Hickory City Code which are not in conformance with the provisions of the Amendment occurring herein are repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

#### SECTION 3. Statement of Consistency and Reasonableness

Upon considering the matter, the Hickory City Council found:

1. Consistency of the proposed zoning with the Hickory Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan (Hickory by Choice 2030) and the stated Purpose and Intent of this Land Development Code;

The general area is classified Low Density Residential by the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan. (Note: The Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use map does not contain parcel line data, as the general boundaries of the land use categories are not concrete.)

The Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan states the following about Low Density Residential areas: "this land use category is intended to provide an area of transition between higher density housing in Hickory and the surrounding rural areas..." (HBC 2030, Pg. 3.9).

The R-2 Residential zoning district is not listed as the implementing zoning district for the Low-Density Residential classification; however, the density discussed in the quoted section of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan clearly states densities up to four (4) units per acre are appropriate for the area. The R-2 district permits density up to four (4) units per acre, which is compatible with the language found within the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Given these factors, the rezoning of the properties to R-2 Residential is consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Hickory by Choice (2030) comprehensive Plan.

2. The Low-Density Residential classification is intended to provide locations for residential development at an intensity of 2 to 4 units per acre.
3. R-2 Residential zoning district's permissible density adheres to the recommendations for areas classified as Low-Density Residential by the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.
4. Any and all improvements that are to take place on the property will be required to follow all applicable development regulations.
5. Sufficient public infrastructure is currently in place to handle the type of development possible on the subject property.
6. Any future development that takes place on the subject property will be regulated by current and future development standards duly adopted by the City of Hickory and the State of North Carolina; and
7. Any future development occurring on the subject property will be required to adhere to all state and local building, fire, and flood zone related development regulations. Such regulations will ensure proper protections are provided to ensure surrounding residents, and property owners are properly protected as prescribed by law.

Based upon these findings, the Hickory City Council has found Rezoning Petition 22-01 to be reasonable, but inconsistent with the findings and recommendations of the Hickory by Choice 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Crime Statistics Report – Presentation by Hickory Police Department Major Reed Baer

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller advised Council that periodically staff presents Council, typically annually, a report on crime statistics. He asked Major Reed Baer to the podium to present the crime statistics report.

Major Reed Baer presented a PowerPoint. He advised he would present some statistics to Council and discuss what they mean, how they were determined and how they look at them. They were going to be related to their crime statistics, specifically their crime statistics from 2021. When they talk about crime rate and crime statistics, what specifically are they talking about? He referred to the PowerPoint and advised they would see that when they talk about crime statistics, they were talking about index crimes. Those were the crimes that they report through NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System) that go into a national database and they were divided into two categories. The two categories were violent crime and property crime. He referred to the PowerPoint and showed the top four violent crimes that they were required to report, and the four property crimes. When he was talking about crime rate, and about index crimes, these were the specific crimes that he was talking about that occurred in the City limits of Hickory. He started with just the last 10 years citywide trend. When they talk about index crimes again, those eight crimes that he just mentioned, he referred to the PowerPoint and displayed the actual number of crimes that occurred, and the bottom numbers correlated with the year that they occurred. He pointed out they started in 2011 and go through 2021. He pointed out they started here and ended lower; they had a significant decrease all the way to 2014. They stayed somewhat steady until 2016-2017 with a small spike, then a back downward trend. As they had gotten their 2021 statistics done, they see that they have a slight uptick. He would explain what they were seeing the uptick in and specifically how they need to address it. What they had done well and what they need to work on. He showed another slide which was representative of those same index crimes as they related since they started the Community Policing initiative citywide, which began in the City of Hickory in 1995. He referred to the chart on the PowerPoint and explained these were the actual numbers of those eight crimes that were reported, and the bottom of the slide was per year. He advised it peaked in 2005 when they reported 3,873 index crimes and their lowest was in 2020 when they reported 1,950. Just like they saw in the 10-year trend, he pointed out the slight uptick of 100 more index crimes from 2020-2021. He explained what that meant. When they talk about index crimes, they have it divided. He referred to the PowerPoint and pointed out the number of the violent crimes that he spoke about earlier and the property crimes. When they look at these comparisons there were several takeaways.

The biggest of which was from 2020-2021 they saw a 25 percent decrease in violent crime. That was great news. They saw a 9 percent increase in property crime. Those were the things they need to work on. He referred to a chart which was a three-year comparison of each one of those crimes. When they talk about the most crime that they see right here, which was in larceny and theft, they were talking about both residential and commercial type larceny, larceny from vehicles that encompasses all of those kinds of property crimes. That was where they were really seeing most of that 9 percent increase in property crime was in that category. That was their index crime outlook right now.

Major Reed Baer discussed calls for service and when they talk about what was going on in the City, the index crimes were not just the only thing they need to look at. He referred to the PowerPoint and advised this was the top 10 calls for service that Hickory Police Department (HPD) responded to in 2021. In 2021 they worked a total of 107,458 calls for service. This was actually a 9 percent increase from 2020. The top 10 most frequent calls, he pointed out, were not even index crimes. These were things like 9-11 hang-ups, property checks, alarms, non-injury traffic accidents, civil disturbances, suspicious persons, citizens contacts, health checks, removal of subjects and animal control. A lot of these fell into what they would consider quality of life issues. The bulk of what their officers were responding to were these top 10 right here, which highlights the importance of some of the programs they had presented to Council in the past, such as LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion); their Community Navigator Program, which was a liaison that worked with the homeless community; as well as their Code Enforcement unit which addressed blight and other issues which sometimes go hand in hand with crime. It also illustrated that they try to take a problem-solving approach and they attempt to have as many tools as possible in their toolbox to handle these top 10 crimes. When they talk about index crime, that was what they trained for. That was the investigation. That was the things people normally associate with police work. Police investigation, prosecutions, going to court, perhaps an arrest. This was a large part of the big picture here in the City. He advised for Council's information that 9 percent increase last year was 100,949 calls and this year was 107,458.

Major Reed Baer discussed the crime rate. Going back to those eight index crimes that he showed them earlier and how the FBI calculates that and then produces that in their uniform crime report, which they could go on the internet and see, break it down by State and by year. They calculate that rate by dividing the number of those reported index crimes by the total population and the result was then multiplied by 100,000 and that results in crimes for 100,000 in your population. It could be converted obviously for a smaller city like us to 1,000. He showed what the City's current crime rate was using this methodology. Their total crime index rate for 2021 was 47.14 per 1,000. The violent crime rate for 2021 was 3.86 per 1,000 and their property crime rate for 2021 was 43.27 per 1,000. These numbers were on the Internet, and they get calls about these kinds of things. He was sure Council probably get calls about these. Is Hickory safe? What does the crime rate mean? What they have to remember was that number was based on the population number 43,490, which was last year's census population number. In reality when they were talking about the people in the City, they were talking 80,000 to 100,000 people. What that means was when you look at this number, it was misleading because they were only factoring in the sleeping population of the City. A good example of that was many years ago, he was the Supervisor in the southeast part, Charles Pact over near the mall area and they had some traffic issues. They would work much like they do today, Pay Attention to City Traffic initiatives for traffic safety. They would write citations, at specific times when they knew that there were a lot of accidents happening, speeding, etcetera. They would take the information from those citations, and they would see where the people were from, where they were coming from, and they found that less than 10 percent in a lot of those operations were City of Hickory addresses. That just illustrated the point that they have so much more coming into the City than just the folks living here, which was why that crime rate cannot be accepted just on the surface value. That was why the FBI even has on their uniform crime statistic webpage this disclaimer. "individuals using these tabulations are cautioned against drawing conclusions by making direct comparisons between cities". It was simplistic. It was important enough, they actually put it on their website.

Major Reed Baer discussed NIBRS. He advised that was who they reported to, a National Incident-Based Reporting System. This was relatively new. They began to move to this in 2018 at HPD. Last year was the year it went into full effect in 2021. It was implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement agencies across the country. It captured more specific details. He referred to the PowerPoint and noted they could see things such as single crime incident, as well as separate offenses within the same

incident, including victim information, defenders' relationship, etcetera. And what all that means was what they hope to do progressing and moving forward was that through analysis of crime analyst, it would actually give them better data and better comparison when they try to compare their selves to other cities similar to them or bigger or even smaller. They utilize a data driven intelligence led policing approach at their department. Data was how they know what was going on, so they were hopeful that this would continue to lead them to be able to address issues.

Alderwoman Patton asked how many other cities had moved to this. Was that now the trend?

Major Reed Baer advised everyone has now had to move to this in 2021. They were one of the first in 2018. It actually assisted some other agencies in navigating whenever NIBR first came on board. There were some hiccups as you could imagine with how to report, how did your software because they had some automated reporting going on. Now as of 2021, everyone.

Major Reed Baer discussed their focus for 2022. Obviously, property crime was a big deal. They were up in property crime. They had a significant decrease in violent crime, were up in property crimes, so they were going to continue to focus on property crime, for example, breaking and entering vehicles and larceny from vehicles was a major issue that they face every single year, but they found that over 90 percent of those car break-ins occur in vehicles that were not locked and not secured. It was everyone's responsibility to lock their car. If they could lock their car and do those little things, it was their responsibility to make sure they were giving that information to the community, informing the community. They try to do that through a lot of ways, social media, community meetings when they kick back in in the future. Property crime was going to be one of their big focuses. Continue nontraditional collaborative approaches to reduce crime for calls of service such as the programs he mentioned, LEAD, Community Navigator, and Catawba County Safe Communities initiative. Those quality-of-life issues that he mentioned earlier, in those top 10 through Code Enforcement, nuisance abatement processes, when necessary, emphasis on community policing, intelligence led policing, like he mentioned through crime analysts and figuring out where they need to be, when they need to be there. The reason that had become even more important, as they saw with City Manager Warren Wood's presentation last meeting, they were one of the department's mentioned with some staffing challenges. He was very proud of, which was last year, even with their challenges, they saw a 7.6 increase in officer-initiated activity during a non-committed time. He noted that non-committed time was very rare for their patrol officers. The fact that when they were not committed, they were actually going and doing those home checks, doing those property checks, going to those locations that they know they were supposed to be through that data and intelligence led policing that he spoke about earlier. To be honest, he was surprised to see that number that high, but he was very proud that he was able to present that to Council tonight. They were hoping that that would continue, and they were working very hard to get those staffing challenges taken care of. He commented that was just a lot of information and statistics. He asked for any questions.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if he had any numbers relative to Lenoir and Morganton and surrounding cities. He asked how the City of Hickory compared to them.

Major Reed Baer advised he did not pull any of those for tonight, but he certainly could get those to him if he would like to see the specifics. He commented the City of Hickory swells during the day, as they know, and a lot of the cities around us, they shrink. He did not know specifically about Lenoir and Morganton, but he suspected they would find that the City's rate was going to be reflective of those numbers that swell. He commented let's go on the conservative side and say it was 80,000 that come into the City then they could cut our number in half.

Alderman Zagaroli commented they were coming from other cities and doing the crime.

Major Reed Baer responded yes sir. On some of those traffic projects he mentioned earlier, they regularly saw the addresses were Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell County addresses.

Alderman Seaver asked if he had to keep statistics on the percentage of the crimes committed by people who are not residents as compared to the residents.

Major Reed Baer replied they do not keep those statistics; they could do some through their crime analysts. They could run specific numbers for specific crimes. They could look at that.

Alderman Seaver commented he figured since he said that was mentioned on the website, they may have a category.

Major Reed Baer they only address the population question, unfortunately.

Alderman Seaver commented it could be difficult to do. It was extra work.

Alderman Wood asked if there was a correlation between the trends in crime. They had lulls and spikes. Was there a correlation between that positive or negative and any other global, bigger factors like economic conditions, those types of things? He asked if he had identified anything like that.

Major Reed Baer asked in the property crime spikes he was talking about. When they dig deep and they dig into it, they do see spikes in specific areas, catalytic converters for example, that had been a nationwide issue. If they had seen the news catalytic converters were being stolen all over the place. He did not know how that related to economic issues specifically, for those particular incidents, they know that those are very valuable, the material in them, that spurred a lot of folks to be able to grab those and sell them, but the Federal authorities had done a good job at cracking down on a lot of that. He did not have any specific economic and/or social issues. They were seeing obviously with the pandemic and the opioid epidemic, a lot of things related to mental health that he thought had contributed to some police calls for service but not in a specific area that he could address tonight.

Alderwoman Williams commented if they look at the trends of the years during the recession, they did see the higher spikes.

Major Reed Baer confirmed that was right.

Mayor Guess asked if there were any further questions for Major Baer.

Alderman Zagaroli asked how many of the homeless were being reported as relative to crimes. Did he know? Was that a large number or small number?

Major Reed Baer asked if he was asking how many victims and/or suspects were homeless individuals. He asked if that was what he was asking.

Alderman Zagaroli replied yes.

Major Reed Baer advised he did not have that number tonight. That was another thing he could try to breakdown for him.

Mayor Guess thanked Major Baer and commented that was very informative.

Councilmembers thanked Major Baer.

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

<b><u>CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
Small Cities Project Area		VACANT
<b><u>COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
At-Large (Outside City but within HRP) (Council Appoints)		VACANT
<b><u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
Other Minority (Council Appoints)		VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints)		VACANT
Other Minority (Council Appoints)		VACANT
Differently Abled and is African American or Other Minority (Council Appoints)		VACANT
Differently Abled (Council Appoints)	Beth Whicker	
	(Not Eligible for Reappointment)	
<b><u>HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION</u></b>		
(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)		
At-Large (2)(Council Appoints)		Mary Moorer



(Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish to Serve Again)

**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Ward 3 (Seaver Appoints) VACANT  
(Beth Schauble Resigned 11-10-2021)

**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
At-Large (Mayor Appoints) (Harold Humphrey Resigned 11-4-2021) VACANT

**RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Ward 6 (Patton Appoints) (Lona Hedrick Resigned 1-11-2022) VACANT

**YOUTH COUNCIL**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Youth Council Applicant Review Committee Recommends the Following Appointments:

Fred T. Foard VACANT  
Homeschool VACANT

Mayor Guess asked if there was anyone on Council who had any appointments, they would like to make to any of the Boards or Commissions. There were none. He advised they had a few vacancies. Not as many as they had in the past. He encouraged those in the audience if they were interested in serving voluntarily on any of the Boards and Commissions, they could certainly learn more about those on the City’s website or they could speak with any Councilmember after they adjourn the meeting. They would be glad to help them and direct them with those Boards and Commissions.

- C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests
- XII. Matters Not on Agenda (requires majority vote of Council to consider)
- XIII. General Comments by Members of Council, City Manager or City Attorney of a Non-Business Nature  
  
Mayor Guess commented February was half-over, the year was moving right along.
- XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk